



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office
440 West 200 South, Suite 500
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
<http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en.html>



IN REPLY REFER TO:
3100 (UT922000)

February 13, 2015

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DECISION

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance	:	Protests of the Inclusion of Certain
425 East 100 South	:	Lease Parcels on the February 17, 2015
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111	:	Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale

Protest Dismissed

On November 14, 2014, the Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) Utah State Office posted a Notice of Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale (“NCLS”) that identified parcels of land which the BLM proposed to offer for oil and gas leasing at a competitive lease auction scheduled for February 17, 2015 (“February 2015 Lease Sale”). That NCLS also provided notice of a 30-day public protest period for the parcels that the BLM proposed to offer for oil and gas leasing during the February 2015 Lease Sale.

During the public protest period for the NCLS, on December 15, 2014, the BLM received a letter whereby the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Grand Canyon Trust, and Natural Resources Defense Council (collectively “SUWA”) jointly protested the proposal in the NCLS to offer the following parcels (“Protested Parcels”) for lease at the February 2015 Lease Sale :

UTU90945 (UT0215 – 038), UTU90957 (UT0215 – 057), UTU90958 (UT0215 – 058), UTU90959 (UT0215 – 059), UTU90963 (UT0215 – 065), UTU90965 (UT0215 – 085), UTU90966 (UT0215 – 087), UTU90967 (UT0215 – 090), UTU90968 (UT0215 – 091), UTU90974 (UT0215 – 109), UTU90975 (UT0215 – 110), UTU90976 (UT0215 – 111), and UTU90979 (UT0215 – 114).

On February 10, 2015, the BLM Utah posted an errata sheet for the NCLS that, among other things, deferred all of the above identified Protested Parcels from being offered for oil and gas leasing at the February 2015 Lease Sale. As none of the Protested Parcels will be offered for lease at the February 2015 Lease Sale, the protest of the February 2015 Lease Sale submitted by SUWA is hereby dismissed in its entirety.

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (“IBLA”) in accordance with the regulations contained in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (“CFR”) Part 4 and as described on the enclosed BLM Form 1842-1. In order for an appeal of this decision to be considered, a written notice of appeal must be filed with this office (as described on the enclosed Form 1842-1) within 30-days from receipt of this decision.

If you wish to file a petition for a stay pursuant to 43 CFR § 4.21 as to the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by IBLA, a petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification in accordance with the standards listed in 43 CFR § 4.21(b), which include:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied;
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant’s success on the merits;
- (3) The likelihood of irreparable harm if the stay is not granted; and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Copies of the notice of appeal, petition for a stay, and a statement of reasons must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Office of the Regional Solicitor, Intermountain Region, U.S. Department of the Interior at Federal Building Room 6201, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138, at the same time that the original documents are filed in this office.

Please direct any questions regarding this decision to Justin Abernathy, BLM Utah Fluid Minerals Leasing Coordinator, at 801-539-4067.

/s/ Jenna Whitlock

For Juan Palma
State Director

Enclosure:

1. Form 1842-1